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CLASSIFICATION **CONFIL**

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC 39th Gds Inf Div of the Eighth Gds Army

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT Late October 1949

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 13 March 1950

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[redacted] early February 1950, the
additional information on the
39th Gds Inf Div:

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a. Most of the Eighth Gds Army maneuvers were conducted in the Ohrdruf (M 51/J 15) area. There were field exercises by units up to two regiments and maneuvers ("inspectional maneuvers") [redacted] conducted by more than one division. For example, there were field exercises by the 112th and 120th Gds Inf Regts with detached elements of the 154th Sig Bn and the 15th Tank Regt participating.

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b. The 39th Gds Inf Div (summer quarters in the woods 1.5 km south of Ohrdruf) and the 57th Gds Inf Div were engaged in the maneuvers conducted between 29 September and 7 October 1949. During these maneuvers, the 57th Gds Inf Div launched an attack against the 39th Gds Inf Div who occupied a defensive position. The summer quarters of the 20th Gds Inf Div were in Crawinkel (M 51/J 14). The division did not take part in the mentioned maneuvers as it had conducted its maneuvers in mid-Summer of 1949. (1)

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An artillery brigade of the Eighth Gds Army was stationed in Altenburg (N 51/K 27). It was in a camp in the woods about 10 km from Ohrdruf during the Summer of 1949. (2)

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The XXVIII Gds Corps had no component artillery brigade. (3)

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combined into one brigade?

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[redacted] The artillery regiments of the 39th Cds Inf Div were not combined into a brigade.(4)

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[redacted] A Col Yackshin was Chief of the Nation Supply Section of the 39th Cds Inf Div [redacted] It was rumored that he would be transferred.(5)

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[redacted] Each rifle regiment is equipped with two medium tanks and four guns on self-propelled mounts. These weapons are combined into one platoon, usually commanded by a captain.(6)

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[redacted] the first time and now believes the numerical designation 45 to be correct. However, he was positive of the previously reported [redacted] battalion.(7)

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[redacted] stated that the 87th Cds Arty Regt is a gun regiment. The division's howitzer regiment has the numerical designation 936 and has its permanent quarters (also during the winter) in Ohrdruf. (8)

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[redacted] The Russian designation generally is "Tankovy Polk" or sometimes "Zamokhodny Polk". The regiment was equipped with 50 to 60 tanks, most of them type T34.(9)

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[redacted] the gas masks used during his time were of the same type as used during the war.

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[redacted] a conversation among field officers who said that there was a considerably improved new version of the T34 tank. However, the T34 tanks of the 39th Cds Inf Div were of the old type.

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[redacted] a 2d Lt Tsagvotsdin of the 154th Cds Sign Bn who, with a Capt Lohachov

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(presumably promoted to the rank of major in the meantime), was detached to a special signal unit in Weimar (J 51/J 57) in July 1949. This unit was allegedly equipped with devices with which it was possible to make out approaching aircraft and their exact number by day and night. It was said that only reliable party members were assigned to this unit. (10)

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The ration supply depot of the 39th Gds Inf Div is in Audolstadt. Butter and meat were kept in the cold-storage house of Saalfeld (J 51/J 53). [] did not know of any stocks of emergency rations.

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[] in September 1949, [] a captain (Vet) of the 57th Gds Inf Div who was stationed in Weissenfels (J 52/J 99). The captain was enroute to the Apfelstaedt 155th "Zhivotnovodskoye Khosyaystvo" (army-owned livestock-farm) to which he was newly assigned as head veterinarian. The unit had the Eighth Gds Army's [] (11)

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Lt Col Ishchenko was Chief of the transportation services of the 39th Gds Inf Div. (12)

Comment:

Previous statements [] of the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div* were supplemented by specific data contained in the above report.

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(1) [] the field exercises and maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army components during the summer and fall of 1949. The maneuvers conducted by the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div and the 57th Gds Itz Rifle Div from 29 September to 7 October 1949 (the latter launched an attack from the area of the Hindel troop training grounds upon completion of the field exercises) are known from several reports. Contradictory [] it is assumed that the two mechanized divisions held maneuvers once more in the fall of 1949.

(2) Component units of both the 38th Arty Brig and the 43rd (Gds) Gun Arty Brig are stationed in Altenburg. The two brigades are believed to be organic components of the Eighth Gds Army. According to reports on rail movements, [] component units of the two brigades held field exercises in the Ohrdruf area and at the Alten-grabow troop training grounds during the summer of 1949.

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(3) The previous assumption that a rifle corps does not include an artillery brigade was corroborated.

(4) The statement confirms the previous belief that artillery brigades activated under some rifle divisions after the war

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[REDACTED] 25X1

were deactivated as early as 1947.

(5) Reports on rail movements in the Fall of 1949 stated that military goods for Unit Clementov Yakshin [REDACTED] were unloaded in Audolstadt. It was assumed at that time that Yakshin might be CG of the 39th Gds Artz Rifle Div. according to the previous and above report [REDACTED] Genmajor Y.D. Vasilevski is now listed as CG 39th Gds Artz Rifle Div and Col Yakshin as Chief of the Division's ration supply section. 25X1

(6) The statement that two tanks and four SP guns are assigned to a motorized rifle regiment is given credence. The platoon equipped with these weapons is presumably an elements of the reconnaissance company or the headquarters company.

(7) As the engineer battalion of the 39th Gds Artz Rifle Div had the numerical designation 45 during World War II, the 45th Gds Engr Bn is now listed as a component of the division.

(8) No previous information on the armament of the two artillery regiments is available. [REDACTED] statement is, however, considered credible. The 87th Gds Arty Regt is assumed to be equipped with 76-mm field guns and the 936th How Regt with 122-mm howitzers. 25X1

(9) The information on the equipment is given credence. The designation "Zamokhodny Polk" would, however, indicate that the regiment's armament would also include SP guns. This is not considered credible with regard to tank regiments of motorized rifle divisions.

(10) Possibly a signal unit of the 13th AAA Div.

(11) [REDACTED] the Eighth Gds Army Main Ration Supply Administration in the Weimar-Erfurt area. It was last confirmed there on 5 November 1949.

(12) Lt Col Ishchenko is not listed in the files.

* [REDACTED]

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